Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 4 with the following amended paragraph.

This application claims priority from U.S. applications serial no. 09/322,443, filed May 28, 1999, serial no. 09/298,536, filed April 23, 1999, and serial no. 09/239,194, filed January 28, 1999. ~~These applications are incorporated herein by reference.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 143, line 8 with the following amended paragraph.

The following volumes ~~are incorporated by reference~~ include background information. INTEL ARCHITECTURE SOFTWARE DEVELOPER'S MANUAL, VOL. 1–3, Intel Corp. (1997); GERRY KANE, PA-RISC 2.0 ARCHITECTURE, Hewlett-Packard Professional Books, Prentice-Hall (1996); RICHARD L. SITES AND RICHARD T. WITEK, THE ALPHA AXP ARCHITECTURE REFERENCE MANUAL, 2d ed., Digital Press, Boston (1995); DAVID A. PATTERSON AND JOHN L. HENNESSEY, COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE: A QUANTITATIVE APPROACH, Morgan Kaufman Publ., San Mateo, Calif. (1990); TIMOTHY LEONARD, ED., VAX ARCHITECTURE REFERENCE MANUAL, Digital Equipment Corp. (1987); PETER M. KOGGE, THE ARCHITECTURE OF PIPELINED COMPUTERS, Hemisphere Publ., McGraw Hill (1981); JOHN MICK

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AND JAMES BRICK, BIT-SLICE MICROPROCESSOR DESIGN, McGraw-Hill (1980).

Please delete the heading on page 143, line 19, which includes the text "Reference to Microfiche Appendix."

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 143, line 20, which starts with "This disclosure includes an appendix."